

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st December 1900.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th November has the following:—

The Powers and the fate of China.

The conditions on which the Powers have agreed to make peace with China are too hard to be readily assented to by the Chinese, but for the Emperor of China there is no alternative but to accept those conditions. If the Emperor does not do so, he must fight with all the Powers—a contingency which, if it happens, is sure to make his position worse; and if, on the other hand, he agrees to those conditions the ruin of his mighty empire is certain. The condition most difficult to comply with is to behead eleven Chinese subjects who are princes and nobles. If the Chinese, ignorant and foolish as they are, had not, in the Japano-Chinese war, accepted the mediation of the European Powers and thereby opened the gate of China to the foreigners and the Christian missionaries, such a catastrophe would not have befallen their country. This, and worse than this, will be the fate of those who prefer strangers to their own kith and kin. The eleven princes whom the Powers require to be put to death are all influential and respectable men, whose existence is considered by them to be a source of future political danger. Foolish indeed must be the nation which thinks that it can prosper by allowing foreigners to come into its own country.

It is strange that the Asiatic nations do not take a lesson from what is going on now. They do not evidently know that when a people enter a country as conquerors, the first thing they do is to kill the chiefs and nobles and men of importance and position in that country. Respectable men are brought into disgrace, while lowclass men are respected. In the countries conquered by the Europeans, one will always find that the conquerors have been anxious to demolish everything indicative of the past glory of those countries. In fact the European Powers are acting in China according to the precept of Peter the Great of Russia. They will uproot all the pillars upon which the Chinese Empire and the strength of the Chinese rest. It is true that they have not divided China among themselves, but they are not going away without each having a slice out of that big empire in the shape of a war indemnity. The power of the Emperor will be so curtailed that he will be Emperor of China only in name. In fact, the Chinese are a very cowardly nation. Five hundred millions though they are, they could not stand against fifty thousand European troops. This is all due to the fact that they are very idle and spend their time of peace in luxury. The Chinese affair is a good lesson for the people of Persia.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-  
DAS HABLUL  
MATEEN.  
Nov. 19th, 1900.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Pratinidhi* [Calcutta] of the 13th November publishes the petition which has been submitted to the District Magistrate of Tippera by Rajani Kanta Chaudhuri, Mukhtar, and one Juna Gaji, giving information against some *budmashes* and habitual offenders, and observes as follows:—

Recrudescence of crime in the  
Tippera district.

PRATINIDHI,  
Nov. 13th, 1900.

Ever since the establishment of British rule in this country, people lived in perfect security with their life, property, and honour. A good and watchful Government made it impossible for *budmashes* to hold up their heads and caused high-handed people to tremble at the thought of committing oppression on others. Twenty years ago theft, dacoity, and *budmashi* were rarely heard of. But within the last few years there has been a fearful recrudescence of crime. The petition referred to above shows what a serious change has come over the country and how unsafe and insecure life, property, and honour have become in the mufassal. The petition has been submitted in open court, and is not, therefore, likely to contain false statements. A perusal of it has filled us with consternation. One can hardly believe that crimes like those mentioned in the petition could be committed with impunity within British territory. But they have been really so committed. Thefts have been committed, but the thieves have not been traced; constables have been poisoned, but the offenders have not been brought to justice; and even women have been insulted and oppressed with impunity.



BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 20th, 1900.

3. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 20th November says that considering the recent increase in the number of dacoities in the Burdwan district and the inability of the police, in most cases, to trace the dacoits, unless helped by the people, it would be extremely inadvisable to reduce the number of licenses for firearms in the district and make the people absolutely helpless against dacoits. All wicked men possessing firearms should certainly be deprived of their licenses, and no licenses should be granted to men of bad character. But it is the duty of the Magistrate, who is the protector of the people's life and property, to induce as large a number of men of good character as possible in every village to take out licenses for firearms and keep such arms. It will be a matter of regret if the Magistrate really contemplates reducing the number of licenses in the district by, as was recently given out by a certain constable, one hundred and fifty.

BARISAL HITAISHI,  
Nov. 21st, 1900

4. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 21st November says that Respat Tewari, head constable of the Barisal town police, has been in Barisal for three years, and has become extremely unpopular. Some time ago some cases were instituted against him. He ought, therefore, to be transferred from Barisal.

PRATIVASI,  
Nov. 26th, 1900.

5. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th November complains of dacoits on the Jamuna river within the jurisdiction of the Mathura thana in the Pabna district. The Magistrate's attention was drawn to these dacoits. But he seems to have taken no steps to check them, as they have become bolder than before. Lately, one night, they looted a merchant's boat near the Nagarbari ghât just after dusk, and effected their escape. The gang consisted of about a dozen men. The owner of the boat did not lodge a complaint at the thana, because he was unwilling to undergo the harassment of a police investigation.

Lately, also, a gentleman travelling with his servant in a boat from Atrai to Damdama in the Rajshahi district was, while asleep, attacked with some sharp weapon by the *manjhi*. The man saved himself by jumping out on the bank, but nothing has yet been heard about his servant, and only a blood-stained quilt belonging to him has been found. Another accident of a similar nature had occurred a short time before.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,  
Nov. 27th, 1900.

6. A correspondent of the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 27th November complains that *budmashes* are committing oppression in a village near Baburhat in the Tippera district.

TRIPURA HITAISHI.

7. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that theft and *budmashi*, which were formerly unknown in Nachbarnagar in the Tippera district, have of late become very frequent there. From the month of *Sravan* last up to date there have been no less than about a dozen thefts in the village: one of these in the house of Sarada Charan Rai, in which valuables to the amount of seven or eight hundred rupees were stolen, the police failing to trace the offenders. On the 18th November last there was a daring theft in the house of Nilmani Gop, a rich man of the village. This case, too, is not likely to be traced. In informations recorded by the police, the property stolen is always valued at less than five hundred rupees.

The villagers do not give information to the police, because they know that it does nothing to detect the offenders without receiving illegal gratification.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Nov. 21st, 1900.

8. A correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 21st November complains of the oppressions which are being committed by a certain Musalman survey amin in the Backergunge district. The amin has been exacting money from the *Baruis* of Khapura, a village within the jurisdiction of the Kotwali police station, and damaging the *pân* leaf plantations of those who are refusing to gratify him. He is paying no heed to the provision of the Survey Act which



distinctly lays down that where damage is likely to be done to private property by taking the survey line straight, it should be turned away. He is also employing wicked villagers as *baskis*.

A petition has been submitted to the Settlement Officer against this amin, and that officer has ordered his assistant to make an enquiry. It is hoped that under Mr. Bell and Peary Babu oppressions by the survey people will be impossible.

9. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November says that the driver of a railway train having sounded his whistle when the train was passing near the Court-house at Narayanganj, Mr. Howard, the Subdivisional Officer, felt the Court's peace disturbed by the sound. For this, the driver was prosecuted and fined Rs. 5, though the rules require all drivers of trains to sound their whistle when nearing a station. A strange vagary this of Mr. Howard's!

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

10. The same paper says that one Govinda, a licensed vendor of gunpowder and other explosives, was lately fined Rs. 20 by Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate, Midnapore, for selling crackers without having taken out a separate license authorising such sale. Though a separate license was not necessary in the case, Mr. Jarbo says that it is necessary. Government had really good reason to confer increased powers on Mr. Jarbo.

HITAVADI.

11. The same paper has the following:—

The Divisional Commissioner's interference in the administration of criminal justice.

The effect of the circular which was lately issued by the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division on the subject of passing the sentence of solitary confinement has been that subordinate Magistrates are passing such sentences in many cases in which they are not justified by offences committed. In a recent case of the kind, in which the sentence passed by a Deputy Magistrate was appealed against, the District Judge made the remark that "it is not necessary to inflict such severe sentences as this on a lot of bazar people for a petty assault." Is there nobody to take note of the fact that the punishment which, next to capital sentence, is the severest that is laid down in the Penal Code is now being inflicted on people convicted of petty offences?

HITAVADI.

The complaint is one which is being repeatedly made by a Civilian Judge and not by worthless newspapers. Does not even *his* opinion deserve consideration? Must the opinion of only the Magistrate and the Commissioner be accepted as correct, while the opinion of a District Judge is to be considered as of no weight? If a Magistrate or a Commissioner had once reported against a Deputy Magistrate as an unduly lenient officer who always passes light sentences, Government, perhaps, would have found itself sorely perplexed to know how it should deal with such a Deputy, but now when an able Civilian Judge of yours is persistently calling your attention to the unduly severe sentences which are being passed for trivial offences, will you not open your eyes and see? Will there be no interpellation in the Legislative Council as to whether or no leniency is considered a demerit, and the passing of severe sentences a merit in a Deputy Magistrate?

To return to the circular issued by the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division. According to the rules promulgated by the High Court, the Commissioner has no authority to issue such a circular. The law confers no powers on the Commissioner to interfere in the criminal work of Magistrates, the District Magistrate, the Sessions Judge, and the High Court being the only authorities which, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, are vested with revisional powers over all criminal work done by the subordinate Magistracy. As if to show that the Commissioner has nothing to do with the administration of criminal justice, the Code makes no mention of that functionary except in one place (section 320) where the Commissioner is referred to as one of the officers who are exempted from service as a juror or assessor. How is it then that the Divisional Commissioner interferes in the administration of criminal justice? Under what law does he exercise supervision over criminal work, as he is said to do, during his tours through districts and subdivisions? It may be thought that this is a sort of private arrangement made by the officers themselves and



need not exercise the public mind. But it would be wrong to think so. The Commissioner is the executive head of the Division, but he is nobody, as we have shown from the Code of Criminal Procedure, so far as the administration of justice is concerned. Why does he content himself with exercising supervision over the criminal work of only the Deputy Magistrates? Why has he got nothing to say about the work of the Sessions Judges? While ordering Deputy Magistrates to pass sentences of solitary confinement, why is he silent when the Sessions Judge is reversing such sentences? It is hard to see how the High Court can acquiesce in the action of the Divisional Commissioner in exercising such control and supervision over the subordinate Magistracy when such action is clearly illegal and unwarrantable.

(d)—Education.

JYOTI,  
Nov. 22nd, 1900.

12. The *Jyoti*, [Chittagong] of the 22nd November says that following the example of Noakhali and Tippera, the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Chittagong, is reducing grants-in-aid in his district. Recently he has reduced the aid of the Rosangiri Middle English School by five rupees. The population of the place where this school is situated is mostly Jumia and Musalman, who are still very backward in education, and cannot be induced to pay the cost of their education. The reduction of the aid may probably deal a death-blow to the school.

JYOTI.

13. The same paper complains of the misuse of public money by the officers and members of the Chittagong District Board for selfish purposes. Recently the Board resolved on paying grants-in-aid to the *tols* in the district to the extent of Rs 300 year. During the absence of the permanent Vice-Chairman before the *Durga Puja*, the Officiating Vice-Chairman and the head clerk divided the grant for the current year between the two petty *tols* of which they were respectively the patrons, in disregard of the claims of all other and more deserving *tols* in the district. It is strange that neither the Magistrate-Chairman of the Board nor the Commissioner has taken exception to this action of the officiating Vice-Chairman.

HITAVADI  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November has the following:—  
To those who had been eagerly looking forward for a reform of the Central Text-book Committee and expecting to see that henceforward it would be impossible to get worthless books passed by that body through influence, recommendation, and nepotism, the new rules framed by Government defining the Committee's constitution and work will doubtless cause deep disappointment. It is extremely to be regretted that the rules will have the effect of destroying instead of reforming the prevailing system of education. Even the small measure of independence which the people had hitherto possessed in matters educational will now be taken away. A perfectly new system is going to be introduced as regards the books that are to be read as well as those that are to be taught. There will be no need of exercising any judgment in the matter. The teachers will not be allowed to read or teach any books they may choose. Henceforward "*Jo hukum*" will be the motto even of this farce of education.

The stringency of the new rules has really surprised us. Why are such hard-and-fast rules laid down to regulate education? Government is seized with a fear of rebellion, and thinks that unless such vigorous measures were adopted, the seed of sedition would be sown in the tender hearts of boys and girls, and students would become disloyal and hostile to Englishmen. This is why Government is going to interfere in the choice of text-books. No book, which does not contain the praise of Englishmen and English rule, will now have any chance of being considered a good text-book.

We consider this fear of rebellion which has seized the officials as mental imbecility, and are pained to see the disease spreading. It is a matter of regret that our grievances in the matter of education are going to be increased and obstacles placed in the path of education. Indeed it would be really a wonder



if the fact of narrow and illiberal views being introduced even in the Education Department as a result of this unfounded suspicion and baseless alarm on the part of Government did not make us uneasy. The real complaints against the Text-book Committee, the causes which had hitherto stood in the way of the production of good school-books Government has not removed. It is anxious to teach only loyalty to native boys.

The possession of merit and not the exhibition of force is the best way to attract love and *bhakti*. Fear does not produce lasting *bhakti* nor does force beget good-will. Example teaches more efficiently than precept. When the pupil is orally taught that the subject people have no grievances under British rule, and finds, as a matter of fact, that they have many grievances what will be the value of the teaching he will receive? You will go about preaching that all subjects possess equal rights, but when students find in practice that as a matter of fact, a native master is prohibited from wearing arms while his European servant guarding his house is free to do so, what will be the value of this theory of equality which you will preach? If the native student is to be taught loyalty let Government present him with real instances of its own action and endeavour to remove abuses and grievances. Mere precept and use of compulsion will fail to bear fruit.

The new rules supply no want and remove no inconvenience while they are not calculated to increase the usefulness of any existing arrangement. They will only have the effect of taking away the little independence and transferring to officials the little power which the public had hitherto possessed in educational matters and widening the scope of arbitrary action. So long our boys had to read books, teeming with errors, written by native authors, now it will be necessary to read and teach translations and imitations made by Europeans. Our boys now read ungrammatical forms like “সখ্যতা, সত্যতা, ও সৌজন্যতা” but they will soon come to read “Dingdong bell, Puss is in the well”.

15. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November urges on the Government of Bengal the necessity of employing more Musalman inspecting officers in the Education Department than is done at present. The object of the notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th September last is being defeated by the words “provided that a duly qualified Muhammadan candidate is available.” District Boards consist mostly of Hindu members, who are not very willing to employ Musalman Sub-Inspectors. Even when Musalman candidates are forthcoming for vacant Sub-Inspectorships, District Boards suppress the fact and appoint Hindus. Musalman education will receive no encouragement so long as District Boards do not employ a larger number of Musalman Sub-Inspectors. Every vacant Sub-Inspectorship intended for a Musalman should be advertised in the *Calcutta Gazette* and the *Education Gazette*, and in all newspapers conducted by Musalmans. Such advertisements will certainly bring in a large number of duly qualified Musalman candidates.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

16. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th November has the following in reference to the new rules relating to Text-book Committees:—

BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 24th, 1900.

New rules relating to the Text-book Committees.

The way in which the text-books for the Primary and the Vernacular Scholarship Examinations are selected at present will not undergo much modification when the new rules come into force. But there is one point which requires elucidation. Will the Bible and the books imparting biblical instruction used in missionary schools require to be considered and passed by the Text-book Committee like other books? If they do not, will the exemption extend to all religious books read in Hindu and Musalman schools? The *Chandi*, the *Gita*, the *Bhagvat* and other Hindu religious works are at present taught in certain Entrance schools. It would be extremely inconvenient if books like these were required to be approved of by the Committee.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

17. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November has learnt from a correspondent that cholera is raging virulently in Damurhuda in the Chuadanga subdivision and in many villages within the jurisdictions of the Hare-

BASUMATI,  
Nov. 22nd, 1900.

Cholera in some villages in the Nadia district.



Krishnapur, Syampur, Dwariapur, Gangani Karimpur and Tribhatta thanas in the Meherpur subdivision of the Nadia district. As there are no good physicians in these remote villages, and medical aid cannot be promptly procured from the sadar, large numbers of men are dying every day without treatment. The District Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon should send some doctors with medicines to the affected villages. Government is spending money lavishly upon plague measures, although there is hardly any plague in the country. But it is not in the slightest degree moved by the spectacle of hundreds of men dying of cholera and hundreds of families being ruined thereby.

Cholera breaks out every year in these villages and their neighbourhood, the reason being bad drainage due to the silting up of the rivers. Tolls are regularly collected on these rivers, but their proceeds are simply frittered away instead of being spent in a manner which would do lasting good.

SANSODHINI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

18. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 23rd November draws attention to the inconvenience which is suffered in consequence of the arrangement made to the effect that medicines and necessaries required for a cholera patient admitted to the Chittagong Hospital should not be supplied from the hospital, but must be obtained directly from the Municipal Office. Instead of this roundabout system, the Municipality should either place funds in the hands of the Civil Surgeon for the purchase of medicines and necessaries for cholera patients, or instruct him to supply them from the hospital, and afterwards realise their price from the Municipality.

It is not also right for the Civil Surgeon to allow the use of no other medicine for cholera patients except the newly-discovered oil.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November draws the attention of the Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality to the decomposed and offensive state in which corpses from the Medical College and the Campbell School hospitals and the dissecting rooms attached thereto are sent to Kasi Mitter's ghat for cremation. People using the route taken by the carts carrying the offensive matter find the stench issuing therefrom perfectly unbearable, and their suffering is aggravated when, as is not unoften the case, blood and other decomposed liquid matter escape through apertures in the carts and fall on the road. Complaints are also made against the manner in which the municipal mehters remove the contents of private privies.

PRATIVASI,  
Nov. 26th, 1900.

20. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th November has the following:—  
Mr. Macdonald, Secretary to the Calcutta Corporation, is going on six months' leave and Mr. Knox-Ord, retired Superintendent of the Board of Revenue, who is probably a favourite with the authorities, will be appointed in his place, on a salary of Rs. 400 a month. Mr. Knox-Ord, a white-headed Englishman may, of course, serve as a good figure-head for ornamental purposes, but how can he be of any service to the Municipality when, on account of his age, he was thought unfit to serve the Board any longer? The matter has not ended with only Mr. Ord's appointment. One Mr. Lynam, an Assistant in the Bengal Secretariat, is also going to be appointed to a post in the Secretary's office on a salary of Rs. 300 a month. The new Commissioners have without the least hesitation given their consent to this waste of money and overlooked the claims to the officiating Secretaryship of able men in the Municipality, like Babu Ramani Mohan Chatterji, License Officer. Ramani Babu has been deprived of the reward of his merit, because he has not a white skin.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November says that the enquiry which is being made into the cases of alleged oppression in connection with the realisation of land revenue in the Broach district of the Bombay Presidency during the present famine has, so far, brought many new facts to light. Not a few Bhils, raiyats of the Government khas mahals in that district, have stated that they were compelled by the revenue officers to pay the instalment of land revenue then due out of the money they

Collection of land revenue during famine in the Bombay Presidency.



had received as famine grant. If what these men say is true, the local officers will be considered guilty, and not a few natives will lose their appointments. There is good name and promotion for the man who can show large collections, while he who is found out as an oppressor is undone—even punished with imprisonment. Is this a commendable policy for Government to follow?

When Lord Sandhurst expressed himself satisfied with the success of the revenue officers in collecting the land revenues, and the Government of India shared the satisfaction, every thoughtful Indian felt serious misgivings in his mind. What could be a greater wonder than that the poor people who were dying of starvation were yet able to meet the revenue demand to the last farthing? But the big European statesmen conducting the administration of the country saw nothing in the matter to feel surprised about. There had been an influx of money into the treasury, and they were glad. But now that the truth is being disclosed and the novel method on which oppression was practised is being brought to public notice, will the European officials concerned hide their diminished heads in shame, or try to whitewash all the wrong-doing by dismissing the petty native subordinates? It remains to be seen how the question is disposed of by our sapient Viceroy.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

22. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 21st November urges on the Backergunge District Board the pressing necessity of re-excavating the undermentioned khals in that district:—
- Re excavation of canals wanted in the Backergunge district.
- BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
Nov. 21st, 1900.

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) The Lakhutia khal.  | (3) The Amtali khal.  |
| (2) The Rahmatpur khal. | (4) The Batajor khal. |

These khals are fast silting up.

The khal which has been excavated from the south side of the Batajor-Agarpur Road to the east of Chandrahar should be extended to Agarpur and joined to the Ghanteswar khal. Such an extension will improve not only the communication but also the sanitation and agriculture of the villages through which it will pass.

23. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November draws attention to the inconvenience which is caused to passengers on the Eastern Bengal State Railway in consequence of there being no train from Sealdah to Goalundo between 7-30 A.M. and 8 P.M. The inconvenience would be to a certain extent removed by the running of a train from Poradaha to Goalundo, and from Goalundo to Poradaha in connection with the Darjeeling up and down mails, respectively. Such a train may be tentatively run for at least a few days.
- A railway complaint.
- BASUMATI,  
Nov. 22nd, 1900.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November draws attention to the inconvenience which has been caused to native passengers on the Deoghur branch of the East Indian Railway by the discontinuance of the practice of stopping trains at the third mile level crossing, near the courts in Deoghur. Henceforward the train will be stopped there only for a few European gentlemen and not for any native passengers. The railway authorities could not have offered this insult to native passengers, if they had thought that native passengers would be able to resent such conduct on their part. How long will Indians go on pocketing such insults in silence? They can easily teach a lesson to the railway company by travelling from Baidyanath Junction to Deoghur in carriages or bullock carts instead of by the railway.
- A railway complaint.
- SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 22nd, 1900.

25. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 23rd November requests the Traffic Manager of the Assam-Bengal Railway to allow vegetable sellers travelling by this line a concession similar to that which is made to vegetable sellers travelling by the southern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, namely, allowing them to travel with their goods without any additional charge for the latter. This will not only benefit vegetable sellers but bring additional revenue to the railway company by inducing more villagers to come to towns with vegetables for sale than at present.
- Vegetable traffic on the Assam-Bengal line.
- SANSODHINI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.



HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

26. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November says that now that the project of a light railway connecting Magra Hât with Jaynagar in the 24-Parganas district appears to have fallen through, it behoves the local authorities to give effect to the next best plan for improving the means of communication between the two places by so deepening the existing canal that it may become navigable by *saltis* throughout the year.

The canal between Magra Hât and Jaynagar in the 24-Parganas.

HITAVADI.

27. Another correspondent of the same paper points out the desirability of connecting the northern part of the *khal* below Ishibpur in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district with the Kumar river. If this is done, the stability of the hât newly established in the village will be insured, while there will be an improvement of defective drainage, sanitation, and means of communication over a considerable tract of country.

The *khal* below Ishibpur in the Faridpur district.

PRABHAT,  
Nov. 28th, 1900.

28. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 28th November dwells on the inconvenience to which railway passengers are put, owing to want of latrines in intermediate class carriages. Many of the intermediate class carriages of the new pattern which are attached to local trains on the East Indian Railway are indeed provided with such accommodation, but there is no such arrangement in the case of through passenger trains. The best and most economical way of removing the inconvenience complained of would be to fit up all intermediate class carriages of the old pattern forming part of through passenger trains with a latrine at one end of each carriage. As for carriages of the new pattern they should never be attached to through trains, because they are not provided with sleeping berths, and also because the compartments not being partitioned off by iron bars one can freely go from one compartment to another, thus making it perfectly easy for thieves to steal the passengers' luggage. As regards the local trains all that is required in connection with this matter is that all intermediate class carriages of the old pattern attached to such trains should be dealt with in the way the new pattern carriages have been dealt with. Another point which should receive the attention of the railway authorities is the overcrowding in the few intermediate class carriages allotted to each through train. To prevent this an additional carriage of that class should be attached at Howrah to every through train leaving that station.

Railway matters.

(h)—General.

SEVIKA,  
For Aswin, 1307 (B.S.)

29. The *Sevika* [Diamond Harbour] for Aswin, 1307 (B.S.) writes as follows:—

Suggestions for the Census Commissioner.

In the Census Report of 1891 the pure and impure Kaibarthas have been enumerated under the same name *Kaibartha*. Consequently the number of pure and impure Kaibarthas respectively, cannot be ascertained from that report. The same defect is observable in the Census Report of 1872 also, with only this difference, that in this report the pure and impure Kaibarthas have been given the name "*Kaibartha* and *Chasa Dâsa*" (the word *Dâsa* ought to have been spelt *Dâsha*). But there is no mention of the many titles by which pure Kaibarthas of different places designate themselves in order to distinguish themselves from impure Kaibarthas.

Writing about the Kaibartha caste, the report of 1872 says—

"The great cultivating castes of Bengal, however, are the Kaibartha and Sadgop. Of these the former number over two millions. Kaibartha is a Sanskrit word meaning a waterman. Manu says:—'A Nishada begets on an Ayogavi woman a Murgava or Dâsa, who subsists by his labour in boats, and called Kaibartha by those who dwell in Aryavarta, or the land of the venerable.' Kaibarthas appear to have been divided into two branches, the Haliya Kaibarthas or cultivators and the Jaliya Kaibarthas or fishermen. The former are commonly called Dâs, the latter Jeley or Jeliya, or Kewat, which I take to be merely a corruption of Kaibartha. Mr. Williams in the Oudh Census Report derives Kahars also from Kaibartha, the Kahars having been originally watermen. Elliot too, in his Glossary connects the Kahars and the Tiyars or Dhibars, who are said to be a branch of the Kaibartha caste. Curiously, too,



in the Chota Nagpur Tributary Mahals we met with some Dhimar, who are described as domestic servants"—*vide* the Census Report of 1872—General Statement A, Chapter V, page 186, section 450.

The report also says—

"In the present report no attempt will be made to give a full and exhaustive account of the numerous castes and tribes which have been mentioned in the Census returns. The knowledge of the subject is very imperfect."

In the hope that these imperfections may not exist in the report of the next census, we submit the following for the consideration of the Census Commissioner:—

Kaibarthas are divided into four classes:—(1) Those born of a Nishad father and an Ayogavi mother (*vide* Manu 10-84); (2) those born of a Swarnakar father and a Kuverini mother (*vide* Parasuram Samhita); (3) those born of a Kshatiya father and Vaisya mother (*vide* Brihat Vyasa Samhita, Brahma Baibarta Purana and Padma Purana); and (4) those belonging to class 3, who took up the calling of fishermen and became outcastes in consequence of coming into contact with Tibars (*vide* Brihat Vyasa Samhita, Brahma Baibarta Purana and Padma Purana). Of these four classes of Kaibarthas, only those are pure or Halik Kaibarthas, who being born of Kshatiya fathers and Vaisya mothers have not lost their caste by becoming fishermen and coming into contact with Tibars. As the late Sir William Hunter said—"Even a Brahman would take water from a Halik Kaibartha." These Halik Kaibartha bear various names in various places. Mahisya, Doshmanta, Mahisya Das, Parasar Das, Halik Das, Krishan Chasi Das, Uttar-Rarhi Kaibartha, Dakshin Rarhi Kaibartha are all designations of the pure Kaibarthas. All high castes will take water from their hands. The other three classes of Kaibarthas are impure and the high castes will not even touch the water brought by them.

30. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 21st November has heard many complaints against the postmaster of Panchthupi in the Murshidabad district, one being that emboldened by the patronage of some influential men, he pays no attention to public convenience in the discharge of his duties, and that his treatment of the public has become unbearable. Such a postmaster ought not to be kept in a respectable village like Panchthupi.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Nov. 21st, 1900.

31. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November, considers it strange that no enquiry has yet been held into the charge of taking bribes brought against some employes in the Calcutta Income-tax Office by some residents of Calcutta. The petition of complaint has been submitted to the Board of Revenue, and contains the names of the delinquents and the amounts of the bribes they have taken. The petition also indicates the evidence by which the charge can be established. An enquiry ought to be held into the matter without delay; and if the employes complained against are found guilty, they ought to be adequately punished. If, on the contrary, they are found innocent, the complainants ought to be taught a lesson.

SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 22nd, 1900.

32. The same paper draws the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces to the three evils, namely, oppression by monkeys, oppression by the police, and oppression by zamindars, which make life intolerable in Benares City. Every year a large number of men die in that city at the hands of monkeys or are seriously wounded by those animals.

SANJIVANI

Since the retirement of the religiously-disposed Kotwal Safdar Hosain, police oppression has very much increased, and people are harassed and oppressed on paltry pretexts. Thefts, too, have become very common, the police seldom doing anything to trace the offenders.

The oppression by zamindars is in the shape of the exaction of *chauth* on all immoveable property sold. This *chauth* is a source of great injustice and hardship to all owners of land and house property.

33. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November complains that Government has as yet done nothing to put a stop to target practice at the rifle range at Dum-Dum, in consequence of which stray

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

Accidents caused by stray bullets from the rifle range, Dum-Dum.



bullets frequently travel to Kadihati, Narayanpur, and the neighbouring villages, and strike people, causing injuries, more or less severe. Referring to this complaint, the Editor says that the question was twice raised in the Bengal Council, and on each occasion the authorities gave the assurance that the matter was under the consideration of the Military Department, and there was every hope of a speedy remedy. But the aggrieved people have yet found none. Lord Curzon, it is to be hoped, will direct his attention to their grievance.

SAMAY,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

34. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November says that it behoves Government to make a searching enquiry into the truth or falsity of the allegations regarding the prevalence of bribery in the Calcutta Income-tax Office, contained in a petition which was lately made, in the first instance, to the Board of Revenue and subsequently transferred by the Board to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division for disposal. It is to be regretted that the Commissioner has taken no action on the petition.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Nov. 25th, 1900.

35. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 25th November points out that many incompetent men have been selected as census enumerators and supervisors in Nawabganj, in the Dacca district. In the appointment of enumerators, supervisors have, in many cases, been actuated by private malice, and people who refused to serve as enumerators were, on the report of the supervisors, called upon by the Magistrate to explain the cause of their refusal. All these people had to suffer a loss of Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 each in showing cause before the Magistrate without reaping any benefit thereby. A missionary gentleman, belonging to one of the two local churches did not allow the enumerator of his block to put the requisite number on the wall of his church. He opposed also the supervisor. The matter was reported to the Magistrate, and at last the number was marked.

In most cases the lists of thanas supplied by the collecting panchayats did not agree with those furnished by the supervisors. The panchayats had a motive in showing a smaller number of thanas than really existed.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Nov. 26th, 1900.

36. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th November says that a broker of Bara Bazar, Calcutta, has been bold enough to submit a petition to the Board of Revenue complaining that an income-tax collector is in the habit of taking bribes. Although it is not known how far the complaint is correct, one may be anxious to know whether or no the practice of bribe taking is really prevalent in the Income-tax Office. This is of course a serious charge against a public office like the Income-tax Office. For if the charge is true, it will bring discredit not only on the officer complained against, but also on the system under which that tax is collected. Everybody, therefore, desires that Government should direct an enquiry to be made into the matter.

BHARAT MITRA.

37. The same paper says that the tours of officials in the Punjab are a source of annoyance and mischief to the local raiyats. Although the Punjab Government has issued a circular prohibiting all touring officers from compelling the raiyat to supply them with rations, the practice of demanding such supply still prevails. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab ought to direct his attention to the matter. Vigorous measures should be adopted to put a stop to the practice, as it is calculated to bring discredit on British rule.

BANGABHUMI,  
Nov. 27th, 1900.

38. With reference to the complaints made in connection with the Calcutta Income-tax Office the *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November asks: Is there any place where bribery does not prevail? Were there no bribe giving and bribe taking, people would find their lives unbearable, and many would find it hard to maintain their position in society. Bribery exists everywhere. As the saying goes, proficiency in the art of stealing is a mighty accomplishment, only if you are not caught. The authorities of the Income-tax Office are very probably caught this time. And if they are, they must be prepared to reap abuse for their lack of wit.



## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

39. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November says that the article in the *Bombay Times*, a semi-official paper, calling

The reason why travel by Native Princes has been restricted.

attention to the undesirable and inconvenient situation in which the French Government has

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

been placed, in consequence of the agitation which is being made in Europe against French misrule in Indo-China by Prince Jukanthor of Cambodia, throws some light on the considerations which really prompted Lord Curzon's recent circular restricting European travel by Native Princes. According to the writer of the article, the French Government should, if it wishes to save itself from Princes like Jukanthor, read and introduce into its territories the rules laid down in Lord Curzon's circular. So it is perfectly clear that intelligence of the Prince's movements having reached Lord Curzon, His Excellency has, clever statesman that he is, taken precautionary measures and planted obstacles in the way of native feudatories who may be desirous of visiting Europe. Now, though the adoption of such precautionary measures may be commendable and even politically necessary, there can be no justification of the untrue statement made regarding the considerations which led Government to issue such novel rules on the subject of travel by Native Princes. The Indian heart is more powerfully attracted towards the rulers by official truthfulness than by the terrors of a tortuous policy. That is why we believe that in prohibiting European travel by Native Princes, Government would have done well to mention the true political motives underlying its action instead of expatiating, as it has done, on the habits of luxury and extravagant expenditure supposed to be produced by such travel.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

40. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 21st November says that the

Distress in the Midnapore district.

floods of September last have not yet completely subsided in the eastern and southern portions of the Amarasi pargana and from the major portions

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Nov. 21st, 1900.

of the Bajarpur and Bhuiyamutha parganas, in the Midnapore district, and great distress is still prevailing in those places. The Collector has not visited the flooded tracts or given relief to the distressed people.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November says that the Hon'ble

The land revenue settlement, a cause of famine in the Nagpur Division of the Central Provinces.

Mr B. K. Bose has published a pamphlet as a reply to the Viceroy's note on the land revenue settlement of the Nagpur Division in the Central Provinces. Mr. Bose has shown, by facts and

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

figures, that His Excellency was wrong in speaking of Mr. R. C. Dutt's conclusions on the subject as baseless and unjustifiable. Of course, Lord Curzon will not care to answer Mr. Bose, nor will any highly-placed official write in defence of the position taken up by His Lordship. Under these circumstances, the public will have to accept as correct the conclusions arrived at either by the Viceroy or by Mr. Bose. For our part, we prefer believing Mr. Bose, who has a personal knowledge of the matters he has undertaken to write about to Lord Curzon, who has rebuked Mr. Dutt on the strength of information supplied by others. We are, therefore, driven to the conclusion that by enhancing the land revenue assessments on an extensive scale, and adding to the stringency of the arrangements for the collection of that revenue, the Government has, in a manner, made famine perennial in the Central Provinces. Writing about this matter we are put in mind of a speech made some time ago by Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji, the President of the British Indian Association, in which he criticised very strongly the existing land laws of India, and in seeking to ascertain the causes of the frequent occurrence of famine in this country, pointed out various defects in the administration. The *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* took the Raja to task for making that speech. Nowadays plain speaking makes many men angry and so displeases even the authorities that they think of setting in motion the machinery of the law against the speaker.

42. The same paper writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon on the Indian contribution to the Famine Fund.

Mr. O'Donnell has contributed an article to the *Westminster Review* defending the zamindars, and other wealthy men in India against the charge

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of niggardliness in the matter of contributions to the Famine Fund brought against them by the Viceroy. We admit the truth of every statement made by the writer. What he has stated is perfectly correct. We are subjects of the British Government to which we pay various taxes, such as the land tax, the income-tax, the road cess, the public works cess, the chaukidari tax, the zamindari dâk cess, a justice tax in the shape of stamp fees, and municipal taxes comprising a lighting rate, a water rate, latrine tax, &c., &c.. Though it is clearly the duty of Government during a famine to grudge no expenditure in saving the sufferers from starvation, the Viceroy has not, as a matter of fact, spent crores and crores from the public treasury on famine relief. Under these circumstances, the Government should congratulate itself on the fact that the Rajas, Maharajas, and other wealthy men of India have come forward with liberal donations to supplement the charitable work inaugurated by the State. It is true that the total amount raised from the Indians is less than that contributed by English merchants and Englishmen in England, but it is also true that the hungry and moribund population in Guzerat and Bombay have paid the Government's revenue demand to the last farthing, and that there are revenue officers who have not felt ashamed to express their satisfaction with the large amount of revenue realised from the dying people. The Indian, of course, finds in death a termination of his sufferings, but the subject's death is the sovereign's loss. The British Government has, therefore, an interest in keeping the subject people alive. The British merchant, too, is similarly interested in the matter. That is why both Government and the merchants have made liberal donations in aid of the Famine Fund. But it appears to us that nothing that they have done in this matter can be considered as very very creditable to them. If anybody is entitled to any credit, it is rather the Indians who, though suffering from the effects of a severe famine, have yet paid both tax and subscription. It is a pity that the Viceroy has been unable to speak in praise of such subjects as the Indians are. Whether the fact is due to any shortcoming on His Excellency's part, or to their ill-luck, we are at a loss to determine.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BASUMATI,  
Nov. 22nd, 1900.

43. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November says that while Babu Surendranath Banerji has been rousing and preparing the people of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces for the coming Congress meeting, people in Bengal are not yet stirring in the matter. The representatives for Bengal will, as usual, stir themselves on the 24th December and hurry away to Lahore with the utmost speed possible. The Bengal cities and districts take no great trouble to elect representatives; and the number of delegates from the mufassal is falling off. It is clear that unless Surendra Babu makes a tour through Bengal, the number of Bengal delegates at the meeting of this year will be very small. The number of men in Bengal who are anxious to attend Congress meetings from a heart felt sympathy with the movement is, indeed, very few.

PRATIKAR,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

44. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 23rd November is extremely sorry at Mr. Oldham's retirement from service. Mr. Oldham loved the Indians dearly, and was ever anxious to protect their interests.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

45. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November has the following:—  
Lord Curzon's speeches and acts. Lord Curzon is now touring in the country, and will arrive in Calcutta in December. His Excellency is making speeches in not a few places in the course of his tour—speeches made up of appropriate, well-chosen, and polished words. But just as the beautiful colours of the rainbow fade in the evening darkness, so the charming music of the Viceroy's speeches dies away and passes out of the mind as soon as their perusal is over. The speeches contain no words truly reassuring from the people's stand-point or enunciating any new administrative problem, and Lord Curzon, it appears to us, has sought to charm everybody with such words as can only please and deceive children.



The ever poor and miserable Indian has, it is true, been always in need of sweet and kind words. Countless English writers and statesmen, from the time of Macaulay to that of General Collen and the war correspondent, Stevens, have heaped unjust abuse on the Indians and vilified them for their manners and customs. Lord Curzon's sweet words have, therefore, proved a healing balsam to our lacerated hearts. His Excellency's kind words during the last two years have given us great satisfaction, and now we expect to find at his hands kind treatment and generous administrative arrangements.

It is to be regretted, however, that Lord Curzon has been yet unable to inaugurate any good work, while he has given his sanction to many measures injurious to the people. He has passed into law the Calcutta Municipal Bill and the Punjab Land Bill; is appointing only Eurasians to high posts in Assam, and has directed that henceforward Eurasians should be employed in the Indian Railway service to the extent of 25 per cent. of the total number of employes. He has confirmed the new land revenue settlement in the Nagpur Division of the Central Provinces; is trying to bring Native Chiefs under a discipline as rigorous as is befitting only in the case of school-boys by refusing them permission to travel beyond Indian limits, and has made arrangements for entrusting the trial of European and Eurasian offenders in the Native States in the hands of European Magistrates. He has also unjustly censured the landholders and other wealthy men of India in connection with the contributions to the Indian Famine Fund. This is a catalogue of Lord Curzon's bad acts. As for his good acts, he has given us only sweet words. But good words butter no parsnips.

46. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November says that as

Mr. Oldham.

Mr. Oldham was a real well-wisher of the Indians, all Indian communities should join in the farewell

entertainment which will be given him at the house of Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore on the eve of his departure from India. Mr. Oldham was an official whose memory ought to be perpetuated.

47. The same paper writes as follows:—

The proposal to perpetuate the memory of the Blackhole massacre.

The memory of the Blackhole massacre is going to be perpetuated in Calcutta by Lord Curzon's order. We do not now what the object of reviving and perpetuating this sad memory may be. But Lord Curzon must have his reasons for taking the step. But what of the statement made by many Bengali historians that the story of the Blackhole massacre, told by English historians, is a myth, and of the arguments upon which that statement is based? It behoves the Government to controvert that statement and those arguments before perpetuating the sad memory.

48. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November has the following:—

"Viceroy or Kaiser?"

In an article headed "Viceroy or Kaiser?" the *Pioneer* newspaper has rebuked Lord Curzon in extremely acrimonious language. Of course, native journalists lack the courage to apply such language to the Viceroy. One who possesses the armour of a white skin can commit even "seven murders" with impunity. For a European, it is impossible to be guilty of sedition, aye, of a good many offences in many cases. The publication therefore, in an influential Anglo-Indian newspaper of a venomous article written by a European is nothing strange or unusual. But if overwhelmed with distress and misfortune, we "*kala admi*" of this country, should think of imitating the performance and proceed to criticise official wrong-doing in strong language worthy of Europeans, there is always the certainty of our instant incarceration in the public jail. That is why we say, it is all very well to read what the *Pioneer* says, but not very well to give our readers a translation of what it has written.

49. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 28th November says, that it is not

"Viceroy or Kaiser?"

often and only when the writer is extremely angry that an article like the one headed "Viceroy or

Kaiser?" is published in semi-official papers like the *Pioneer*, and the Viceroy who happens to be disliked is attacked only on the eve of his departure from India. It is only two years since Lord Curzon came to this country, and three years more are still wanting to complete his official career in India. Why, then

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

BANGABHUMI,  
Nov. 27th, 1900.

PRABHAT,  
Nov. 28th, 1900.



is he being attacked so furiously so soon? The answer is, Lord Curzon has the courage of his convictions and never shrinks from doing what he considers to be his duty. Big officials are not well disposed towards him, because he does not shirk his own responsibility by entrusting them with all powers. The Anglo-Indians are displeased with him because he always insists on the punishment of European offenders. The Anglo-Indian newspapers are displeased with him, because he does not listen to their advice. It is for the sake of duty and influenced as he is by consideration of justice, and not because he wishes to humour us that he does not listen to their advice. The *Pioneer* says that Lord Curzon is pleased by flattery. It is not necessary to deny the charge. Nobody flattered him when he assumed the office of Viceroy, it is only now that we are singing his praise. Would not the *Pioneer* have flattered him if he had oppressed the people of this country? Did not the *Pioneer* sing the praises of Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne? But, then, there is one great cause of the *Pioneer's* anger. "He (Lord Curzon) can claim indeed an ovation over the Press Messages Bill; but to many his action over that measure will appear an ignominious failure." Yes, that is the true reason. But why did Lord Curzon withdraw that Bill? The *Pioneer* adds:—"The people of India are not the subjects of the Viceroy: the Viceroy is the servant of the Queen, responsible to the Sovereign power. The strength of the Viceroy ought not constitutionally to lie in the allegiance of the Indian people to himself, but rather in the confidence which the Queen-Empress and the Secretary of State repose in him." This is mere brag and bluster. The Viceroy has been taunted with being the servant of the Queen-Empress. But the fact is, we are Her Majesty's subjects and the Viceroy is her servant. It would seem that all that is required is that the Queen-Empress and the Secretary of State should be pleased with the Viceroy even though the Indian people were displeased with him. Here the "Queen-Empress and the Secretary of State" should be held to mean the Anglo Indians, for we have not heard that anybody else has become displeased with Lord Curzon. Be that as it may, such writing as this is likely to do much good. Lord Curzon is not the man to be bullied into submission, and he is fully aware of the effect which is produced on the Indian people by a fearless discharge of one's duty.

## URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
Nov. 8th, 1900.

50. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 8th November is of opinion that scarcity of food either in a mild or in an acute form is to be found in some part of India or other

every year. The writer observes that steps should be taken betimes to see that this scarcity does not ripen into famine after a particular period. If this is quickly done, deaths from starvation may be easily avoided.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

51. The same paper approves of the rules regarding the residence of students of Government and aided schools competing for any of the departmental scholarship examinations

that were published in a late issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, and states that if strictly enforced they may produce some good effect. Its contemporary of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 14th November holds a similar opinion.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

52. The same paper is of opinion that the plague rules, framed in this year, are better than those promulgated in previous years, and hopes that their rigour may, to a certain

extent, be mitigated by a sympathetic administration of the same.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Nov. 14th, 1900.

53. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 14th November as also its contemporary of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th November are sorry to notice that money was stolen from the iron chest, placed in the office room of the District Superintendent of Police, Balasore, which is situated at a distance of a few yards from the Balasore treasury, where guards are always present. As this daring theft follows so quickly another committed a few weeks ago in the same town, the papers infer that there is a lack of talent in the Balasore police, as the thieves are yet at large.



54. The same papers are of opinion that it will be a great gain from an administrative point of view if the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district be transferred to the Balasore district, and urge that His Honour need not attend to the objections, which some of the people of Contai are going to submit on the subject, for the objections are not sufficient, and can be effectively met.

Proposed transfer of Contai to Balasore.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.  
Nov. 14th, 1900.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Nov. 17th, 1900.

55. The *Uriya and Navasomvad* [Balasore] of the 14th November sincerely and loyally sympathises with Her Majesty in her bereavement, caused by the unexpected death of Prince Victor at Pretoria, and hopes that the sympathy of her loyal and faithful subjects will, to a certain extent, help her to bear the burdens of old age with resignation.

Sympathy with the Queen in her bereavement.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD,  
Nov. 14th, 1900.

56. The same paper regrets that the criminal law of India should be so far wanting in equity and justice as to send several men to the gallows for the death of one man, and hopes that the Legislature will lose no time in modifying the rigour of the law, as it exists at present.

Rigour of the criminal law of India.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

57. Referring to the Famine Statement of His Excellency, the same paper states that it will be a great gain to India, if His Excellency can, during his short stay in India, inaugurate a scheme, under which a good and sufficient source of water-supply may be secured in all parts of India, and, as its consequence, the quantity of irrigated area in that country may be greatly increased after a certain number of years, for such a water-supply will minimise the dread of famine and its awful consequences, due to periodical drought.

Water-supply for irrigation.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

58. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th November is of opinion that Babu Umes Chandra Sarkar, the late Manager of the Kanika estate, in district Cuttack, who is now on sick leave, may be allowed to join his appointment at least for a temporary period on trial, as there is a difference of opinion among the medical authorities of Cuttack and Puri concerning his fitness to resume public duties.

Babu Umes Chandra Sarkar, Manager of the Kanika estate.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
Nov. 17th, 1900.

59. The Dehurda correspondent of the same paper writes to say that already signs of distress are visible in the Baliapal thana of the Balasore district, and that this distress is due to the high floods of the Subarnarekha river, which destroyed the standing crop in that part of the Balasore district. Unless the local authorities rise equal to the occasion, the distress may deepen in time and then turn out uncontrollable in every way.

Signs of distress visible in the Balasore district.

UTKALDIP. KA.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

60. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 15th November says that there can be no impartial administration of justice without impartial judges. Assam is not fortunate enough to possess many such judges, and the result is that failure of justice is very common in this Province. To reform this state of things and get good judicial officers, Mr. Cotton abolished the fourth grade Deputy Commissionership and raised the pay of the first three grades. But this reform will be productive of no good, and will cause only waste of money, so long as men like Mr. Hudson of Manipur and Mr. Salkeld of Karimganj are retained in the service. The only effect of Mr. Cotton's action has been to increase the pay of the officers without any improvement in the efficiency of the service.

Paucity of good judicial officers in Assam

SILCHAR.  
Nov. 15th, 1900.

61. The same paper says that the Cachar Local Board spends about thirty-five or thirty-six thousand rupees in constructing roads and excavating tanks, &c., every year. But with the exception of the Chairman there is no officer on the Board whose duty it is to supervise the work, which is done by overseers and sub-overseers. Either a Vice-Chairman should be appointed to supervise all outdoor work, or the Executive Engineer, who is a member of the Board, should be entrusted with the work of supervision.

The Cachar and Hailakandi Local Boards.

SILCHAR.

It appears from the Sanitary Report of Assam for the year 1899 that during that year Rs. 1,129 were spent in Cachar in digging three wells. One of



these wells, the Sialtak well, is full of filth and jungle; another, the Bikrampur well, is used only by those who stop at the dāk bungalow, and is of no use to the villagers; the third, the Katigara well, is the only one which has become a useful source of water-supply to village people.

The Hailakandi Local Board is totally indifferent in the matter of water-supply, though good water is a real want of the place. It is owing to its bad water that Hailakandi suffers so much from fever.

SILCHAR.  
Nov. 15th, 1900.

62. The same paper draws the attention of the Cachar Municipality to the bad condition of the drains in the Cachar town. The rainy season being over the improvement of the drains should be attended to at once. The requisite money has been provided in the budget.

The monthly accounts of expenditure are not placed before the Committee and passed by it every month.

The system of paying the contractors for work done in cash and by cheques is objectionable. Cheques are issued in the name of the Vice-Chairman and cashed by him, and the money is then distributed to the contractors by the clerk. Such a system of payment obtains neither in the Public Works Department nor in the Local Boards, and should not exist in the Municipality.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 1st December, 1900.*